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STATE ICHTHYOLOGY OF MASSACHUSETTS.

I.

THE history of the ichthyology of Massachusetts has never been written and a sketch of such appeared to me to be the best and most seasonable response I could make to the invitation to address the investigators and students assembled at the headquarters in Massachusetts of the United States Fish Commission. The history is an interesting and a rather remarkable one. Of course, in the time allotted for an address, only the salient features of a long history can be given and many minor communications and even popular works relating to the ichthyology of the region in question must remain unnoticed. The room is requisite for a neglected subject. We are often curious to know something about the personality of the men whose work we consider and such information is generally difficult for the scientific student to obtain. Of several of the old and departed writers on the fishes of Massachusetts notices will be now given, and when reference is next made to their writings, perhaps it may be done with a new interest and better means of judging their work.

The history of Massachusetts ichthyology begins early in the history of the United States—earlier even than any set-

* An address delivered at Woods Hole, before the Marine Biological Laboratory, on the evening of August 3, 1904.

The early history may be found given at greater length in the new edition of Goode's 'American Fishes,' edited by Gill and published by Dana Estes & Co., of Boston (1903).